UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE

BUSHIDO BULLETIN

March 2003 Volume 13 Issue 2

Directors: James H. Hawkes & Dr. David Jordan

A TRIBUTE: DON LOVATO, JR.

by Gary Purdue, 8th Dan

Don Lovato died from cancer on February 4th, 2003. He was a supreme brown belt competitor in the US Karate Alliance. His family asked me to give the eulogy for him at his funeral, which amazed me – we had never met. Don and I had a great mutual respect, which his family understood.

After Don's funeral I kept thinking about him, even going over my eulogy often. I didn't understand why, until Anna Chalamidas, US Karate Alliance's two-time national sparring champ told me, "You need to write an article about Don for the Alliance Bulletin."

With her encouragement, I offer my feelings about Don Lovato to all of you in the Alliance. When I was trying to think about what to say about him, I sat down in the exact place where Don was sitting when I first saw him.

He was watching one of my karate classes, sitting in the University of New Mexico gymnasium bleachers. He liked what he saw in karate and started taking it with me.

The UNM black belts found Don to be a quiet, unassuming, very private man who was also smart, dedicated, disciplined, determined and loyal. When he helped teach, the students he influenced with his patient generosity felt welcomed by his friendly nature.

Don never complained about the rigors of practice whether he was training, helping with students, or competing. His commitment to excellence was evident in all his martial activities, including karate and his ongoing volunteer work as a sergeant in the Army Reserve. He was a true warrior. The sergeant major of Don's troop nodded knowingly when I mentioned this at the funeral.

Don achieved the karate rank of brown belt, plus a LOT more! He was a National Champion in both sparring and forms, and his National Points Championship in those

divisions led to his elite Karate All-American award from the US Karate Alliance.

Socially, Don spent most Friday evenings with the UNM Karate Club, both working out and dining out afterward. Of course, we kidded each other and joked around a lot. Don was up for the hijinks – one of his favorite quotes was from Star Trek's Mr. Spock, "Constant exposure leads to a certain degree of contamination."

One evening I was sitting across form him at dinner, and reached across to stick my finger in his water glass. I asked, "Is this your water?" Don didn't miss a beat.

Don Lovato, Jr.

He said, "why, no it isn't." Then he reached over and stuck HIS finger into MY glass of water and said, "Is this YOURS?"

But my fondest memories of him were sharing private time together at the World Championships in New Orleans, LA. We sipped cokes, munched super-size "Cheetos" and helped each other take apart our trophies to ship back home here in N.M.

That year at that tournament his TWO World Championship trophies were a LOT bigger than my 2nd place award, and he had two 1st place trophies to go with them! Yet, with all his wins, Don never bragged. His own family never even saw him compete.

When Don's sisters told me that, I asked Brad Altman, (an Alliance National Champion in black belt kata, and one of Don's best friends) to make a video of Don's competition. For you to understand the love and respect Don has, THREE of his other karate compadres – Anna Chalamidas, Patrick Matthew (Alliance National brown belt champion) and Maria Lopez (Alliance National color belt champion) helped Brad find Don's competition – on EVERY ONE of the karate tapes he had! And the tape is MARVELOUS! Now his family can see him in competition at his best.

Don's greatest wish was to achieve the rank of black belt. Unfortunately – to my regret – his illness prevented him from taking his black belt test.

At his funeral I had an advantage. As an 8th Degree black belt I could honor my faithful Don Lovato's many great karate accomplishments by awarding his well-deserved shodan black belt rank to his family. The attending congregation applauded his promotion while his family, in thanks, wept. It was an awesome moment.

I had the privilege of knowing Don as a student, team

member, helpful assistant, and realtor – and as a marvelous friend. I had ENORMOUS respect for him.

He was a great karate man – but most importantly, he was a GOOD man. The week his sisters called me with the news of his passing, I watched the movies "Mission Impossible" and "Independence Day." I thought both movies were appropriate because he had an impossible mission with his illness, yet with God, Don found freedom.

Now as I mourn his loss, I know in my heart that Don is soaring with his Savior and Father in Heaven at this very moment.

Maybe they aren't stars
Maybe they are windows to Heaven
So our lost ones can look down upon us
And we can know they are still with us.

In loving memory, Gary Purdue

RETURNING CHAMPS TO DEFEND TITLES AT NATIONALS

by Rick Nathanson, 7th Dan

Four returning grand champions from California, Louisiana and Indiana are expected to defend their titles at the 2003 U.S. Karate Alliance Nationals.

The double-maximum-point tournament and the Alliance Annual Seminar series will be held April 3-6 at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North Hotel (formerly the Crowne Plaza Pyramid Hotel).

Among the California contingent will be Guy Holtzman and Jeff Crothers; from Louisiana look for Gabrielle Garner; and from Indiana, eyes will be focused on Donnie Michael.

Mr. Holtzman, a Matsumura Seito stylist from Palm Springs, won his seventh Nationals title for Black Belt Kata by performing "Hakutsuru," a White Crane form. He trains under John Hutchcroft, Philip Koeppel and Roy Oyakawa.

Mr. Crothers, a Keichu-Do student of Karl Marx, won the title in the Men's Black Belt Kumite competition after spirited matches against Mr. Eddie Bethea of Indiana, Mr. Buster Cotten of Louisiana, and Mr. Richard Long of New Mexico. Mr. Crothers currently operates a dojo in Carlsbad, Calif.

Ms. Garner brought the Women's Black Belt Kumite Grand Champion title back to Louisiana after beating teammate Sandy Cheung and returning champion Anna Chalamidas of New Mexico, who was disqualified for drawing blood after a technique accidentally got away from her. Ms. Garner is a Tae Kwon Do stylist who trains under Joe Dupaquier. It was her first win at Nationals.

Indiana's Donnie Michael won his first National Grand Champion in Kobudo last year. The kata, "Kako No Kon," was taught to him by his instructor, Mr. Bethea. The kata had already taken Mr. Michael to the winner's circle twice before at World Championships.

RESERVE YOUR SEMINAR SPACE NOW

by Rick Nathanson, 7th Dan

With time running short before Nationals, don't forget to reserve a spot for those seminars that are interest to you. Most of the seminars will be held throughout the day on Sunday, April 6. The exceptions are the Rules and Referee Seminar and the Score Keepers and Time Keepers Seminar, both of which will be held on Friday, April 4, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Pyramid Ballroom. These Seminars will be led by Mr. Lee Kittell, Chairman of the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee, Alliance Chief Referee, and a member of the Alliance Hall of Fame.

Re-certification for judges and referees is recommended every two years. The cost of certification is $15. There is no fee for people attending the Score Keepers and Time Keepers Seminar.

The Sunday seminars lead off with Mr. John Pat Bullock, who will be teaching a seminar on "Effective Sparring Techniques. The seminar, which costs $30, will be held from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Mr. Bullock will focus on kicking with movement, closing the gap, and using the ring to your advantage. A 4th degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, Mr. Bullock is a member of the Alliance Hall of Fame and a student of Alliance co-director, Dr. David Jordan. He is a seven-time USKA Nationals grand champion and a four-time USKA World champion.

From 10:30 a.m. until noon, Sensei Fumio Demura will conduct a seminar on "The Necessities of Kata Performance." The cost of the seminar is $40. Demura Sensei, a member of the Alliance Hall of Fame, is one of the most sought out seminar instructors in the world. He was the 1961 All-Japan kata and kumite champion, author of a number of critically acclaimed books on the martial arts, and has appeared in a number of Hollywood films.

Mr. C. Bruce Heilman, 9th Dan, and his wife, Ann-Marie Heilman, 8th Dan, will conduct seminars on long weapons, from 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m., and on short weapons from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The cost of each seminar is $35. The Heilmans are students of Okinawan Master Seikichi Odo, and they are among the top weapons instructors in the United States. Both are members of the Alliance Hall of Fame. Mr. Heilman is chairman of the USKA Kobudo Board and president of the International Karate-Kobudo Federation.

For those karate-ka who wish to be ranked in weapons, the Heilmans will oversee Kobudo testing from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The testing fee is $125 for Black Belts, and $100 for Junior Black Belts.

For students interested in learning more about Chanbara, Mr. Tim Vandenover, will lead a seminar on "Effective Chanbara Techniques." The seminar will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. The cost is $30. Mr. Vandenover is a 7th degree Black Belt, a student of Alliance co-director James H. Hawkes, and director of the U.S. Chanbara Federation.

For further information about 2003 Nationals, contact the United States Karate Alliance at (505) 872-1091 or go online to www.uska.net.

For information on the availability and price of rooms at the Marriott Pyramid North Hotel, call (505) 821-3333.

Southwest Airlines offers discounts of up to 10 percent on most fares for air travel to and from the 2003 USKA Nationals. For information call (1-800) 433-5368 and reference I.D. Code K0136.

Special discount group rates are also available from Alamo Rent-A-Car. For information or reservations call (800) 732-3232, and request Group I.D. Number 585368 and Rate Code GR.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE NEW VENUE

This year's World Championships will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, the premier hotel of choice for New Orleans visitors. Immediately on the banks of the Mississippi River, this full-service luxury complex is actually a "city within itself." While at the Hilton, you'll enjoy the convenience of having many sights at your doorstep, such as the Riverwalk Mall, the Aquarium of the Americas, IMAX Theatre, Riverfront Streetcar, and Harra's Casino. Just blocks away lies the infamous French Quarter, the National D-Day Museum, and the Louisiana Children's Museum, just to name a few.

The 2003 U.S. Karate Alliance World Championships will be held July 10-13, 2003. The championships begin on Thursday, July 10th, with Continuous Sparring, the Rules & Referee Certification, and Score Keepers & Time Keepers Seminar. Friday is a busy day with tournament registration and competition in Koshiki, Musical Forms, Weapons, Team Kumite, and Chanbara, followed by the Alliance Hall of Fame meeting. Saturday will feature kata competition throughout the day, and the National Awards Ceremony in the evening. USKA National Points competitors will be honored for placing in the top ten in the National Point Standings. The top three competitors will receive a trophy, and the top ten will receive a certificate. And last, but not least,

all kumite competition will take place on Sunday, July 13th. The World Championships will hit their peak during the World Karate Championship Finals. Don't miss the Grand Championships for Kata, Kobudo, Kumite, and Team Kata & Team Kumite. As you enjoy the world-class competition, you'll also be entertained, informed, and amazed by the demonstrations performed.

Make your reservations for the 2003 USKA World Championships at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside by calling 504-561-0500 and mentioning the "US Karate Alliance World Championships." We look forward to seeing you in our new world-class venue suited for exceptional competition and fun-filled vacationing."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Promotion Congratulations:

Erik Mason Loftin	Green Belt
Sarah Garrison	Brown Belt
S. Gene Hale	Nikyu
Alejandra Mendez	Pee Wee Black Belt
Colt Wight	Pee Wee Black Belt
Leo Labourdette, Jr.	1st Degree Black Belt
Jonathan Ashworth	1st Degree Black Belt
Larry O'Mahoney	1st Degree Black Belt
Linda Fisher	1st Degree Black Belt
James Vance	Shodan
Chery; Palmer	1st Dan
Andrey Lofton	4th Degree Black Belt
P.J. Winerhawk	7th Degree Black Belt

Non-Member USKA Points Competitors:

USKA National Points competitors who are not current USKA members must join by April 6, 2003 in order to remain in the point standings for the 2002-2003 Point Season. After April 6th, non-members will be deleted from the National Points Competition. Only Current USKA members may contribute to their team and instructor's points. And don't forget, those listed in the top ten are eligible to receive an award at the 2003 World Championships.

Rules & Referee Seminar and Score Keepers & Time Keepers Seminar:

The next Rules & Referee and Score Keepers & Time Keepers Seminar for certification will be held April 4, 2003

Kobudo Testing:

Kobudo (Weapons) Testing will be held on Sunday, April 6th, during Nationals for Black Belts wishing to test. Please notify headquarters by March 21st so arrangements may be made for you.

Hall of Fame Meeting:

The next Hall of Fame Meeting will be held April 3, 2003 during the Alliance Nationals in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Hall of Famers: be sure to submit your nominees for the Trias Memorial Award to Headquarters by March 10th.

Missing Champions:

We are looking for past USKA World Champions to help us celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the USKA World Championships next year. Please, if you know the whereabouts of any past champions, please let headquarters know, or ask them to call headquarters. We are hoping to have a great reunion in 2003 at the World Championships in New Orleans! We are also looking for memorabilia to display to help commemorate the occasion.

2003 RULE PROPOSALS

The 2003 Nationals and Annual Seminar host our Annual National Convention where proposals are considered for additions or changes to the USKA Rules. This year, the following proposals will be considered.

Proposal 1: Ref. 7.3.a In order to split a mandatory adult division, there must be a minimum of four (4) competitors in each division.

Proposal 2: Ref. 3.1.a Only USKA State Championships shall award maximum plus 5 points.

Proposal 3: Ref. 11.3 The kumite grand champion matches at World and Nationals for Black Belt Men & Women shall be **2** two-minute rounds. The winner shall be the individual with the total maximum points.

Proposal 4: Ref. 11.3 The kumite grand champion matches at World and Nationals for Black Belt Men & Women shall be **3** two-minute rounds. The winner shall be the individual with the total maximum points.

Proposal 5: Ref. 12.1.f At the World Championships, there shall be a Grand Champion Black Belt Men Kata Award and a Grand Champion Black Belt Women Kata Award. The run-off would be the same as it is now for each.

Proposal 6: Team Sparring be offered as an event at Nationals.

Proposal 7: Ref. 5.7 & 5.8 Relatives of competitors in the ring should not score keep.

Proposal 8: Ref. 7.3.a The tournament promoter may use his/her discretion in order to split intermediate from advanced. This split would not be subject to the minimum number of competitors required to split divisions, it would be at the promoter's discretion.

Proposal 9: Ref. 4.2.e & 7.2 Add Tots Intermediate Forms, Tots Intermediate Sparring, Youth Intermediate Forms, Youth Intermediate Boys Sparring, Youth Intermediate Girls Sparring, Junior Intermediate Forms, Junior Intermediate Boys Sparring, and Junior Intermediate Girls Sparring to the national points competition and the minimum required divisions.

Proposal 10: Ref. 4.2.e Add Koshiki as a Trial Division in the national points competition.

Proposal 11: Ref. 16 & 16.1a Label Koshiki as a "medium contact" event rather than a "hard contact" event. A point is a well-executed, medium contact technique. An illegal technique will include "full contact" techniques, techniques with injurious intent, and flailing about wildly.

Proposal 12: Ref. 16.4.a In Koshiki, the two corner judges would be scoring judges. They would sit on the sidelines and count valid points sighted by both competitors. At the end of the match, the center referee would give a vote on which competitor he/she felt was the most effective overall. The two judges would turn in their scorecards, each to be counted as a vote, showing which competitor they show having scored the most points at the end of the match. These votes would be tallied on the bracketing sheet, and the competitor with the majority votes would be declared the winner of the match.

Proposal 13: Ref. 12.2 During Kata competition, four of the judges would be positioned on each corner with the center referee positioned at the head of the ring.

Proposal 14: Ref. 4.2.e The addition of Senior Brown Belt Kata, Senior Colored Belt Kata, and Senior Novice Kata as Trial Divisions to the national points competition. (Eliminating the Senior Kyu Kata division)

Proposal 15: Ref. 4.2.e The addition of Senior Brown Belt Men Kumite, Senior Brown Belt Women Kumite, Senior Colored Belt Men Kumite, Senior Colored Belt Women Kumite, Senior Novice Men Kumite, and Senior Novice Women Kumite as Trial Divisions to the national points competition. (Eliminating Senior Kyu Men and Senior Kyu Women Kumite divisions)

Proposal 16: Ref. 7.1.a A senior competitor is a competitor 40 years of age and older.

THE UNITED STATES
KARATE ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 8643
Albuquerque, NM 87198